Preparing for the GRE

Presented by the PuP Office
Overview

• Applying for graduate school
• What is the GRE?
• Sections of the GRE/Test characteristics
• Writing, Verbal and Math details

*Break for Practice questions*

• ETS.org account
• Receiving scores
• How to study
• Test-taking tips
• Additional information sources
• Subject GRE
• Bootcamp Evaluation
Applying for Graduate School

• GRE
  • General
  • Subject
• GPA
• Coursework
• Practical Experience (e.g., research, practicum)
• Personal Statement
• Letters of Recommendation
What is the GRE?

• Graduate Record Examination

• Computer-based test

• Examines your readiness for graduate-level work

• Measures your:

  Analytical Writing skills *(Essay)*
  Verbal Reasoning & Critical Thinking skills *(Verbal)*
  Quantitative Reasoning skills *(Math)*
# Sections of the GRE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Number of Questions</th>
<th>Time Allotted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>2 essays</td>
<td>30 minutes per essay (1 hour total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbal</td>
<td>20 per section</td>
<td>30 minutes per section (1 hour total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative</td>
<td>20 per section</td>
<td>35 minutes per section (1 hour 10 min. total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unscored</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total test time: ~4 hours
### Test Characteristics

| Score Bracketing | After a set of 20 questions has been answered:  
|                 | -Answer a *high* % of questions correctly, the next set will be *harder*.  
|                 | -Answer a *low* % of questions correctly, the next set will be *easier*. |
| Navigation       | -Can move freely within a section  
|                 | -Can flag questions you want to come back to later  
|                 | -Can go back and change answers |
| Scoring          | -*Essay*: 0-6, .5-point increments  
|                 | -*Math/Verbal*: 130-170, 1-point increments (Perfect total score- 340)  
|                 | -Scores good for 5 years |
| Test Re-Take     | Can re-take once every 60 days, up to 5 times per year |
| Cost             | $160 each time you take the test |
Writing Section
(2 essays)
“Analyze an Issue”

Agree or disagree with an opinion on an issue of general interest – develop an argument with reasons and examples to support your views and also provide counterarguments.

Example issue:

As people rely more and more on technology to solve problems, the ability of humans to think for themselves will surely deteriorate.
“Analyze an Argument”

Analyze the soundness and logic of an argument. Give reasons why you think the evidence is sufficient or not, and why.

Example argument:

Arctic deer live on islands in Canada's arctic regions. They search for food by moving over ice from island to island during the course of the year. Their habitat is limited to areas warm enough to sustain the plants on which they feed and cold enough, at least some of the year, for the ice to cover the sea separating the islands, allowing the deer to travel over it. Unfortunately, according to reports from local hunters, the deer populations are declining.

Since these reports coincide with recent global warming trends that have caused the sea ice to melt, we can conclude that the purported decline in deer populations is the result of the deer's being unable to follow their age-old migration patterns across the frozen sea.
Verbal Section
(40 questions)
Sentence Equivalence

Directions: Select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

Although it does contain some pioneering ideas, one would hardly characterize the work as ________.

A. orthodox
B. eccentric
C. original
D. trifling
E. conventional
F. innovative
This question has two blanks:

Vain and prone to violence, Caravaggio could not handle success: the more his (i) _______ as an artist increased, the more (ii) _______ his life became.

Blank (i)
A. temperance
B. notoriety
C. eminence

Blank (ii)
D. tumultuous
E. providential
F. dispassionate
Reviving the practice of using elements of popular music in classical composition, an approach that had been in hibernation in the United States during the 1960s, composer Philip Glass (born 1937) embraced the ethos of popular music without imitating it. Glass based two symphonies on music by rock musicians David Bowie and Brian Eno, but the symphonies’ sound is distinctively his. Popular elements do not appear out of place in Glass's classical music, which from its early days has shared certain harmonies and rhythms with rock music. Yet this use of popular elements has not made Glass a composer of popular music. His music is not a version of popular music packaged to attract classical listeners; it is high art for listeners steeped in rock rather than the classics.

The passage suggests that Glass’s work displays which of the following qualities?

A. A return to the use of popular music in classical compositions
B. An attempt to elevate rock music to an artistic status more closely approximating that of classical music
C. A long-standing tendency to incorporate elements from two apparently disparate musical styles
Math Section
(40 questions)
Areas of Math Tested:

- Arithmetic (e.g., prime factors)
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Data Analysis (e.g., reading charts)

- NO trigonometry, calculus, or higher-level math
## Quantitative Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity A</th>
<th>Quantity B</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(2)(6)</td>
<td>2+6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. Quantity A is greater.  
B. Quantity B is greater.  
C. The two quantities are equal.  
D. The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.
If $5x + 32 = 4 - 2x$, what is the value of $x$?

Select a single answer choice.

A. -4
B. -3
C. 4
D. 7
E. 12
Which of the following integers are multiples of both 2 and 3?

Indicate all such integers.

A. 8
B. 9
C. 12
D. 18
E. 21
F. 36
Enter the exact answer unless the question asks you to round your answer.

One pen costs $0.25 and one marker costs $0.35. At those prices, what is the total cost of 18 pens and 100 markers?

$ ____________
Break for Practice Questions
ETS.org Account
What can I do once I have an account?

My GRE® Home
Welcome, emily polander!

Register
- Register for a General Test
- Register for a Subject Test
- Register for the free GRE Search Service

View, Change or Cancel Registration

Computer-based Tests
- In Mainland China
- In Hong Kong, Korea or Taiwan
- In all other locations

Online Services
- View Scores Online
- Order Additional Score Reports

Quick Links
- Test Preparation
- Test Centers and Dates
- Identification Requirements
- Test Center Procedures and Regulations
- Test Takers with Disabilities and Health-related Needs
Register online to take the General or Subject Test.
View scores online once they are available

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Cancel/reschedule

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Online Services
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Quick Links
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- Identification Requirements
- Test Center Procedures and Regulations
- Test Takers with Disabilities and Health-related Needs
Test prep, testing center locations, etc.

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Quick Links
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- Identification Requirements
- Test Center Procedures and Regulations
- Test Takers with Disabilities and Health-related Needs
Receiving Your Scores
• Official math/verbal scores available after 10-15 days

• Everyone will receive a paper-based score sheet in the mail

• Scores will be automatically sent to schools of your choice that you indicate at the testing center

• Check your scores online for free through your ETS GRE account
SMITH, MARY A.
Last (Family/Spouse) Name, First (Given) Name, Middle Initial

Phone: 1-601-674-3212
Email: msmith@bdn.edu
Date of Birth: 02/02/1983  Gender: Female
Social Security Number: 8766
Intended Graduate Major: 0203 - Biology
Most Recent:
Test Date: 12/03/2011
Registration Number: 111111
Print Date: 12/15/2011

MOST RECENT GENERAL TEST
Verbal Reasoning Percentile Rank 100%
Quantitative Reasoning Percentile Rank 100%
Analytical Writing Percentile Rank 100%

GENERAL TEST SCORES

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<tr>
<td>12/03/2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>06/01/2009</td>
<td>779</td>
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SUBJECT TEST SCORES

RECIPIENTS

Your GRE® Scores have been sent to the authorized recipient at each institution or fellowship sponsor listed here. Some institutions receive scores on CD-ROM which are sent twice a month.

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>GI ETS UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>0203</td>
<td>BIOLOGY</td>
<td>G</td>
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</table>

Mary A. Smith  
23 Allen Street  
Jackson, MS 39203  
USA

This score report includes all of your General Test, Subject Test and Writing Assessment scores earned from July 1, 2006, to the present. For information about interpreting your scores, consult Interpreting your GRE® Scores, which is enclosed with this report. Please check this report for completeness and contact ETS if you have any questions. See the reverse side for an explanation of terms.
# Examinee Score Report

**SMITH, MARY A.**

- **Phone:** 1-601-974-3212
- **Email:** msmith@bdn.edu
- **Date of Birth:** 02/02/1983  
- **Gender:** Female
- **Social Security Number:** 8766
- **Intended Graduate Major:** 0203 - Biology

**Most Recent General Test**

- **Verbal Reasoning Percentile Rank:** 100%
- **Quantitative Reasoning Percentile Rank:** 100%
- **Analytical Writing Percentile Rank:** 63%

**General Test Scores**

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*The GRE® Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning scores are scaled on a 1-190 scale that changes periodically. For tests taken beginning August 2011, scores and percentiles will be printed in the “Current Format” columns. For tests taken before August 2011, scores are on the prior format and the percentiles are estimates. Scaled scores on the current format will be printed in the “Current Format” columns. See the back of this page for more information.

**Subject Test Scores**

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- **Lit = Undergraduate Institution**  
- **GI = Graduate Institution or Fellowship Sponsor**  
- **G = General Test**  
- **S = Subject Test**  
- **NR = Scores Not Reported. See back for details.**

Mary A. Smith  
23 Allen Street  
Jackson, MS 39203  
USA

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- **For information about interpreting your scores, consult interpreting your GRE scores, which is enclosed with this report.**
- **Please check this report for completeness and contact ETS if you have any questions. See the reverse side for an explanation of formats.**
SMITH, MARY A.

Examinee Score Report

Phone: 1-601-974-3212
Email: msmith@bcd.edu
Date of Birth: 02/02/1983 Gender: Female
Social Security Number: 8766
Most Recent: Test Date: 12/03/2011 Registration Number: 111111
Intended Graduate Major: 0203 - Biology

MOST RECENT GENERAL TEST

0 Verbal Reasoning Percentile Rank 100%
85
0 Quantitative Reasoning Percentile Rank 100%
63
0 Analytical Writing Percentile Rank 100%

This report is not valid for transmission of scores to an institution.

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* The GRE® Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning scores are scaled on a 260 to 360 point range. Test takers who take the October 2011 and later administrations of the General Test will receive their scores on the current scales.

SUBJECT TEST SCORES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Date</th>
<th>Test Name</th>
<th>Subscore Name</th>
<th>Scaled Score</th>
<th>% Below</th>
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Test Code | Institution Name | Dept Code | Department Name | Scores Requested |
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U = Undergraduate Institution, GI = Graduate Institution or Fellowship Sponsor, G = General Test, S = Subject Test, NR = Scores Not Reported. See back for details.

Mary A. Smith
23 Allen Street
Jackson, MS 39203
USA
### Examinee Score Report

**SMITH, MARY A.**

- **Phone:** 1-601-674-3212  
- **Email:** msmith@hbn.edu
- **Date of Birth:** 02/02/1983  
- **Gender:** Female
- **Social Security Number:** 8766
- **Last 4 digits:**
- **Intended Graduate Major:** 0203 - Biology

**Most Recent: Test Date:** 12/03/2011  
**Registration Number:** 1111111  
**Print Date:** 12/15/2011

This report is not valid for transmission of scores to an institution.

**General Test Scores**

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*NS = No Score (Indicates that no questions were answered in this section)

*The GRE Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning scores for tests taken on or after August 2011, for the first time beginning August 2011, scores and percentiles will be printed in the "Current Format" columns. For tests taken before August 2011, scores on the previous scale and the corresponding estimated scores on the current scale will be printed in the "Prior Format" columns. See the back of this page for more information.

### Subject Test Scores

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UIL = Undergraduate Institution  
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Mary A. Smith  
23 Allen Street  
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SMITH, MARY A.

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Email: msmith@bdn.edu
Date of Birth: 02/02/1983 Gender: Female
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MOST RECENT GENERAL TEST

- Verbal Reasoning Percentile Rank: 100%
- Quantitative Reasoning Percentile Rank: 100%
- Analytical Writing Percentile Rank: 100%

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*The GRE Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning scores are on new scales implemented August 2011. Prior and current scores are provided. As a result, prior scores in the "Prior Format" columns and current scores in the "Current Format" columns may not correspond. New scores will be reported in the "Current Format" columns. See the back of this page for more information.

SUBJECT TEST SCORES

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Mary A. Smith
23 Allen Street
Jackson, MS 30203
USA
So, what are the next steps?
Figure out your application deadlines
  - Take into consideration money, time, and your testing abilities—how many times do you plan to take the test? (Keep in mind you can re-take once every 2 months)

Find out where the most convenient test center is:

Call your test center for ID requirements/testing dates

Register for the test online or by phone with the testing center
How do I study for the test?
• Give yourself plenty of time—few months prior to test is recommended

• Online practice tests

• Courses

• Books

• LearningExpress at Dunbar Library
General Test-taking Tips
Don’t spend too much time on the progress screen—this will take away from your test-taking time.

Math/Verbal scores are determined by the number of questions answered correctly. No penalty for wrong answers/guessing. Don’t leave anything blank!

Don’t spend too much time on questions you find extremely difficult–go back to them later.
Facebook and Twitter: GRE links

www.facebook.com/KaplanGradPrep

www.twitter.com/KaplanGradPrep
Subject GRE (Psych)
• 205 multiple choice questions

• 2-3 hour test

• $140

• Drawn from core knowledge taught in undergraduate psychology courses
  • Topics include (but are not limited to): Conditioning & Learning, Memory, Perception, Neuroscience, Abnormal, Personality, Social, Measurement & Design
Example Questions

Neurotransmitters are released from what neuronal structure?

A) Dendrite  
B) Myelin sheath  
C) Mitochondrion  
D) Soma  
E) Axon terminal

Object relations therapy is most closely related to:

A) Cognitive-behavioral techniques  
B) Psychoanalysis  
C) Client-centered therapy  
D) Modeling  
E) Gestalt therapy

The behavioral technique of flooding is most likely to be used in the treatment of people with:

A) Anorexia nervosa  
B) A specific phobia  
C) Schizophrenia  
D) Major depressive disorder  
E) Conduct disorder

Download the practice Psychology GRE booklet from: http://www.ets.org/gre/subject/about/content/psychology
Thank you for attending!

Please take a minute to fill out the evaluation forms. Your opinions are greatly appreciated and will be used to improve future bootcamps.